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**Gen. Smith Is 'Improving'**

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, March 17—  
Gen. Walter Bedell Smith is  
"continuing to make gradual  
improvement," a spokesman at  
Walter Reed Army Hospital  
said today. The 64-year-old sol-  
dier-diplomat, who entered the  
hospital last October with pneu-  
monia and a lung abscess, was  
removed from the hospital's  
"seriously ill" list on March 7.  
It was said, however, that "his  
hospital discharge date is not  
contemplated for the near fu-  
ture."